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## CNO Names 2006 Shore Sailor of the Year

By Mass Communications Specialist  
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**WASHINGTON** - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen named Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/DV) Jeromy M. Cronin the 2006 CNO Shore Sailor of the Year during a ceremony at the Pentagon, May 25.

Cronin was chosen from among four nominees and will return to the Pentagon in July to be meritoriously advanced to the rank of chief petty officer along with the Pacific Fleet, Atlantic Fleet and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year.

The other three nominees for the award were: Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (DSW) Timothy C. Roff (U.S. Pacific Fleet); Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Shawn L. Klien (Vice Chief of Naval Operations); and Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Earl Watson (U.S. Fleet Forces Command). Cronin's nominating command was Naval Education and Training Command.

Before the announcement, Mullen reflected on the history of the Sailor of the Year ceremony and the importance of distinguishing great Sailors throughout commands around the world.

The CNO continued by challenging all four Sailors.

"From this moment forward, and certainly when you get to the point when you are wearing khaki, my number one challenge to you is leadership," he said.

He related his top three priorities: sustaining combat readiness, building the fleet, and developing future leaders as part of that challenge saying, "How you carry those out is an important part of your leadership."

Concluding his remarks, he said, "It is a noble profession in which we

serve. To you and your families we are grateful."

Upon receiving the honor from the CNO, Cronin thanked and recognized his wife's sacrifice and commitment over their last 12 years of marriage, and also expressed his gratitude toward the many Sailors he works with.

Cronin began his speech by recognizing the Sailors he competed against for the top honor, as well as the CNO, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), commanding officers, and command master chiefs in attendance.

"In my 13 years, I never thought I would be standing in the Pentagon courtyard among such great Sailors," Cronin said.

During his speech, Cronin spoke about the experiences throughout his career and what has continued to be of utmost importance to him.

"Everything we do, what we've done, or where we have been – we're Sailors first and foremost."

When asked by the CNO what Cronin thought brought him to the position he was in today, he said, "I didn't set out to become 2006 CNO Shore Sailors of the Year. It's just something that happened. You go about your day-to-day business and do the best that you can do."

A native of Tucson, Ariz., Cronin was nominated for the CNO Shore Sailor of the Year honor by Naval Education and Training Command and currently serves as a high-risk instructor at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, Fla.

"To get to where they are today, it's not just their actions in the last year. From the very beginning of their respective careers, these Sailors have distinguished themselves among their peers. It is tremendously rewarding to have Sailors like this honor us by sacrificing so-



**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jeromy M. Cronin delivers his remarks after being announced by Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen as the 2006 CNO Shore Sailor of the Year. Other nominees included: Master-at-Arms 1st Class Shawn L. Klein, assigned to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Timothy C. Roff, assigned to U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Machinist's Mate 1st Class Earl Watson. Cronin will return in July to be meritoriously advanced to the rank of chief petty officer, along with Sailors of the Year from Pacific Fleet, Atlantic Fleet, and Navy Reserve Force.  
*U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class Brandon W. Schulze*

much to do such great service. With Sailors like these coming up through the ranks, the future of our Navy and our nation is going to be in absolutely wonderful hands," said MCPON (SS/AW) Terry Scott, who hosted the week's events.

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize the outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The following year, the Shore Sailor of the Year program was introduced. Sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations, the program provides recognition to the Navy's outstanding Sailors through numerous presentations, awards, and meritorious advancement to the next pay grade.

## Sailors Warned Of VA Data Compromise

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced June 3 that active-duty Sailors may be affected by the theft in May of military personnel data.

According to the VA, a duplicate database with data files was stolen from a VA employee's home May 3. While the VA has received no reports that the stolen data has been used for fraudulent purposes, they are asking all veterans to be extra vigilant and to carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions.

Several resources are available for people to go to for more information. The Department of Veterans Affairs has set up a special Web site ([www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)) and a toll-free telephone number (800-FED-INFO or 800-333-4636) that feature up-to-date news and information on the data compromise. The site offers tips on how to check credit reports, how to guard against identity theft and whom to call if an individual believes any fraudulent activity is occurring using his or her personal information.

The Navy and Department of Defense are working closely with the VA to determine how many Sailors and other service members may be affected by the compromise of records. Sailors whose information has been compromised will be notified by a letter from the VA and the Navy so they can take the appropriate steps.

Tips on how to watch for suspicious activity include the following:

Closely monitor your bank and credit card statements for fraudulent transactions. Monitoring accounts

online is the best way to detect fraud early.

Place a 90-day fraud alert on your credit report, which tells creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. This action may cause some delays if you are trying to obtain new credit.

It is only necessary to contact one of three companies to place an alert. That company is then required to contact the other two.

The three companies are Equifax (800-525-6285, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)), Experian (888-397-3742, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)) and TransUnion (800-680-7289, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)).

Once the fraud alert has been posted, you are entitled to free copies of your credit reports. Review these reports for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted or accounts you didn't open. The alert can be renewed after 90 days.

Sailors are advised to take the following steps if they discover fraudulent accounts or transactions:

Contact the financial institution to close the fraudulent account(s) that have been tampered with.

File a report with the local police department. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by phone at 877-438-4338, online at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) or by mail a letter to Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580.

Other Web sites with more information on how to guard against identity theft include:

[www.privacy.ca.gov/sheets/cis3\\_english.htm](http://www.privacy.ca.gov/sheets/cis3_english.htm)  
[www.co.boulder.co.us/da/consumer/idtheft.htm](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/da/consumer/idtheft.htm)



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